

# Weighed in the Balances

## Introduction

### I. Opening Illustration

A. The most prevalent and warned of sin?

a) **Luke 12:16-21**

B. The root of the rich man's heart

C. Greed, covetousness, making a name for oneself, self reliance - All forms of pride and self exaltation

### II. Context

A. Self Exaltation comes in many forms and can lead people in many different directions in life, but the end result of pride is always the same

a) **Matthew 23:12** - Think about the Pharisees

b) Luke 14:11

c) Luke 18:14

B. Do you like the idea of being humiliated? If we are prideful and exalt ourselves, God will humble us, he will humiliate us to our proper place. However if we humble ourselves knowing our proper place, God will exalt us to a position that we could never deserve.

### III. Purpose

A. I want to examine the last night of a king's reign. I want to see the pitfalls of pride and in turn see the Godly humiliation that pride inevitably brings. Ask yourself, when my life is weighed in the balance, will I be found **wanting** due to my pride and self exaltation? Or will I be found **waiting** humbly knowing that I could never measure up to the standard weight if I stood alone?

## Lesson

### I. Self Exaltation

1. Pride - I have everything I need myself

a) Daniel 5:1

2. Pride - I am worthy of whatever I desire

a) Daniel 5:2-4

3. Pride - I made all of this happen

a) Daniel 5:18-19

4. Pride - Humility is weakness

a) Daniel 5:20-21

### II. Godly Humiliation

1. God - The Writing is on the Wall

a) Daniel 5:6

2. God - You Can't Solve The Problem Yourself

a) Daniel 5:8-9

3. God - Your Gifts Are Worthless

a) Daniel 5:16-17

## Weighed in the Balances

4. God - You Are Not The One In Power
  - a) Daniel 5:23
5. God - You Have Nothing Left
  - a) Daniel 5:28
6. God - Your Soul Is Required This Very Night
  - a) Daniel 5:30

### Conclusion

#### I. God's Impartial Judgement

- A. God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble (1 Peter 5:5; James 4:6)
- B. God shows no partiality among the nations (Romans 2:10-11)
- C. Isaiah tells of the judgement on all nations
  1. Babylon, Assyria, Philistines, Moab, Syria, Ethiopia, Egypt, Edom, Israel, Jerusalem
- D. Our days on this earth are numbers. We will all be weighed in the balances
  - a) Daniel 5:26-27
- E. Will you be found wanting due to self exaltation, or waiting humbly on the Lord to raise you up on the last day?

#### II. Man's Only Hope

- A. To stand proudly or to bow humbly
  1. Think back to Belshazzar when he saw the hand writing on the wall (Daniel 5:6; 9)
    - a) Hebrews 10:31
  2. We are not those who shrink back and exalt self but rather have God as the central focus of our lives
    - a) Hebrews 10:39 - What comes next in this letter to the Hebrews?
      - (1) Practical Examples: Accountability Partner - Test Yourself - Work for the Lord Not Yourself - Don't Believe the Hype - Pray - Keep a Proper Prospective
  3. It is hard to be proud when you always keep in mind of how unworthy you are to be called a son of God - so rather than exalting self we exalt the one who saved us!
    - a) Isaiah 22:12-13 - God's warning if for all - Will we listen?
    - b) Jonah 3:4-5; 8-10 - Babylon didn't have 40 days - The Medes were at their doorpost that very night
    - c) Daniel 4:37
  4. Luke 12:16-21 - Belshazzar did not learn humility from his father Nebuchadnezzar - He partied with 1000s - He drank from the vessels of the Temple - He thought he had plenty for years to come - You fool! Your soul is required of you this very night!
  5. If you stand on the balance alone, no matter how impressive you may be, you will never find yourself ready to meet God - Only when God lifts you up will the balances ever be found in your favor
    - a) 1 John 2:15-17